

2. Approved For Release 2005/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01314R000100470005-9
RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS Morning News

STATION WTOP TV
CBS Network

DATE February 17, 1972 7:00 A.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

OPINION

JOHN HART: Time now for an opinion from Nicholas von Hoffman, he's one of the people who come here with different opinions throughout the week, and his is his own.

NICHOLAS VON HOFFMAN: This morning I'd like to show you something. What it is is a sign that is about to go up on 100 Los Angeles area billboards. In case you don't get good reception, I'll read it. It says: "The CIA put your brother in Vietnam. CIA heroin traffic turned him on to smack. You are paying the CIA six billion dollars a year for these social services."

All of this relates to an article in the March issue of Earth magazine, a publication with a circulation of upwards of a hundred thousand hip teenagers. The same publication provides a news services to something like 300 top 40 type radion stations. So when it accuses the Central Intelligence Agency, or at least some of its key personnel of being involved in the dope traffic, a huge number of teenagers are going to hear about it, and they're going to wonder if their government could do such a thing. If they saw a recent TV news program showing American agents arming eleven year old male boys in Laos, they may think that, yes, we are capable of it.

The accusations that the CIA in cahoots with various business and political interests, has traffic in heroin isn't new. Parts of the story have been popping up in one publication or another for years. The rumors about the agency being compromised by this dirty business has been kicking around Washington for a long time now.

Despite this, despite other charges of criminal activity against the CIA, there has been no public believable investigation of this outfit by Congress. Although there seems to be evidence that some of these accusations are true, they may not be.